



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region



3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, California 92501-3348
(951) 782-4130 • FAX (951) 781-6288
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana>

Matthew Rodriguez
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

January 4, 2012

Nardy Khan
Orange County Public Works
300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA 92702

**CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
CERTIFICATION FOR THE ROSSMOOR STORM CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT, COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA (ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT
AVAILABLE) (SARWQCB PROJECT NO. 302011-23)**

Dear Ms. Khan:

On July 20, 2011, we received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification ("Certification") from Orange County Public Works for this project. The project entails removal of existing riprap-lined slopes, restoring the channel slopes to original design grade and concrete lining the reach of the channel between Los Alamitos Boulevard and Rochelle Street, in Los Alamitos. This letter responds to your request for certification that the proposed project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) (Basin Plan) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

Project Description: Project activities include the removal of existing rip rap from the side slopes of the Rossmoor Channel between Los Alamitos Blvd and Rochelle Street. The newly exposed earthen side slopes will be recontoured and restored to their original design grade. This reach of the channel will be lined with reinforced concrete as a trapezoid channel. Dewatering activities will be conducted using a coffer dam, pump and piping, to divert flows around the construction area. The work will take place within Section 30 of Township 4 South, Range 11 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey *Los Alamitos* quadrangle map (33.799° N/ -118.072° W).

Receiving water: Rossmoor Storm Channel

California Environmental Protection Agency

Fill area: 0.59 acres of permanent impact to streambed habitat (2,543 linear feet)

Dredge/Fill volume: N/A

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 13

You have proposed to mitigate water quality impacts as described in your Certification application. The proposed mitigation is summarized below:

Onsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- Standard water quality related best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction activities.
- The applicant will revegetate inactive disturbed areas as soon as feasible to prevent soil erosion.
- The applicant will construct a four foot wide planting terrace on the southerly and easterly channel slope along the project reach to; allow ground-water recharge, promote riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat, and to collect surface runoff from the existing maintenance road. The planting terrace will consist of drought tolerant bendable native grasses, which minimize hydraulic impact while replacing infiltration area of the invert.

Offsite Water Quality Standards Mitigation Proposed:

- None.

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State according to the requirements of Order No. R8-2009-0030 (NPDES Permit No. CAS618030), commonly known as the Orange County Municipal Storm Water Permit, and subsequent iterations thereof. Order No. R8-2009-0030 requires that you substantially comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, including the preparation of a SWPPP.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15096, as a responsible agency, the Regional Board is required to consider an EIR or Negative Declaration prepared by the lead agency in determining whether to approve a Section 401 Certification. A responsible agency has responsibility for mitigating and avoiding only the direct and indirect environmental effects of those parts of the project which it decides to carry out, finance, or approve. Further, the responsible agency must make findings as required by Sections 15091 and, if necessary, 15093, for each and every significant impact of the project.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15096, subdivision (f), the Regional Board must consider the environmental effects of the project as shown in the associated negative declaration prior to reaching a decision on the project. The Regional Board has considered Orange County Public Works' Negative Declaration in the issuance of this Certification. The Regional Board finds that changes or alterations have been required, or incorporated into the proposed project, which avoid or mitigate impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant must comply with the requirements of the applicable Clean Water Act section 404 permit.
- 2) All materials generated from construction activities associated with this project shall be managed appropriately. This shall include identifying all potential pollution sources within the scope of work of this project, and incorporating all necessary pollution prevention BMPs as they relate to each potential pollution source identified.
- 3) The project proponent shall utilize Best Management Practices during project construction to minimize the controllable discharges of sediment and other wastes to drainage systems or other waters of the state and of the United States.
- 4) Substances resulting from project-related activities that could be harmful to aquatic life, including, but not limited to, petroleum lubricants and fuels, cured and uncured cements, epoxies, paints and other protective coating materials, portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, and washings and cuttings thereof, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the state. All waste concrete shall be removed.
- 5) Motorized equipment shall not be maintained or parked within or near any stream crossing, channel or lake margin in such a manner that petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow conditions. Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in

- waters of the state on-site, except as necessary to complete the proposed project. No equipment shall be operated in areas of flowing water.
- 6) Construction de-watering discharges, including temporary stream diversions necessary for project construction may be regulated under Regional Board Order No. R8-2009-0003, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters that Pose an Insignificant (De Minimus) Threat to Water Quality. For more information, please review Order No. R8-2009-0003 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
 - 7) Best management practices to stabilize disturbed soils must include the use of native plant species whenever feasible.

Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:

- (a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.
- (b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- (c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.

If the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water quality problem, the Regional Board may require the applicant to submit a report of waste discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification.

Violations of the conditions of this certification may subject the applicant to civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13350 and/or 13385.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc (via electronic mail):

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office- Jason Lambert
State Water Resources Control Board, OCC- David Rice
California Department of Fish and Game - Russell Barabe
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ- Water Quality Certification Unit-
Bill Orme

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